



Honorary Awards

In addition to recognizing media productions, performances, and printed materials, the following awards are also presented. Honorary Awards are selected in partnership by the judging committee and the various entertainment and media industry organizations specified in each award description.

Governor's Award of Excellence – Honors an individual or company in recognition of outstanding contribution of state or nationwide impact in promoting general awareness and dignity for people with disabilities. This individual or company has consistently advanced the positive portrayal of persons with disabilities; has made a commitment to hiring people based on ability, not disability; has maintained a professional attitude and demeanor toward people with disabilities; and has made a commitment to using the media to promote and encourage positive attitudes in the viewing public.

Screen Actors Guild Harold Russell Award – Honors a professional performer, writer, or other industry professional with a disability who has substantially contributed to the overall awareness of the disability experience through the media, thereby validating, strengthening, and enhancing the cultural heritage and pride of people with disabilities. The award is presented by the Screen Actors Guild in recognition of Harold Russell, the first actor with a disability to receive an Oscar.

AFTRA Disability Awareness Award – Honors an American Federation of Television and Radio Artists member with a disability, or an organization who has made a significant contribution in raising the visibility and awareness of disability issues in the broadcast, sound recording, and entertainment industries. AFTRA represents 80,000 U.S. actors, broadcasters, recording artists, and other performers working in news and entertainment.

WGAW Joan Young Award – Honors a Writers Guild of America west member who has exhibited extraordinary persistence in meeting the challenge of a disability while successfully pursuing a writing career, and who has demonstrated an active commitment to the goal of increasing access for all writers with disabilities.

Casting Society of America Award – Honors a Casting Society of America member who consistently casts roles based on ability not disability, appropriately casts characters with disabilities, and recognizes the need and makes an effort to include characters cast in typical roles with no reference to their disability.

Producer's Guild Award – Presented by the Producer's Guild to a member who, throughout their career, has consistently dedicated their time, energy, and professional expertise to eliminate stereotypes and encourage the integration, accurate portrayal, and employment of people with disabilities in the entertainment industry.

Director's Guild of America – Presented by the Director's Guild to a member who, throughout their career, has consistently dedicated their time, energy, and professional expertise to eliminate stereotypes and encourage the integration, accurate portrayal, and employment of people with disabilities in the entertainment industry.